The Core Group on Administrative Reforms has considered the Scheme and the approval of the competent authority has been sought for launching the Scheme. The Scheme is likely to commence from the financial year 2006-2007.

Bringing more companies under preview of RTI Act

2503. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to broad base the Right to Information Act in order to bring more Companies/PSUs/Co-op. Societies under the preview of the said Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Under Secretaries in Central Secretariat

2504. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the factors that determine the occurence of vacancies out of the total number of 1400 Posts of Under Secretaries in the Central Secretariat Service;

(b) the number of vacancies of Under Secretaries as on 1.12.2005 and the number of vacancies likely to arise in the next six months and by when these vacancies will be filled up; and

(c) the measure being taken to remove the stagnation in promotion of CSS offices and to ensure promotion of those Section Officers who have completed at least 12 years of service as on date to make this service comparable with the State Secretariat Services which have become more attractive by way of promotion, time scales etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Factors that determine the occurence of vacancies in the Grade 1 (Under Secretary) of Central Secretariat Service (CSS) may broadly be

retirement, voluntary retirement, resignation, promotion to the next grade, dismissal, deputation, natural wastage, etc.

(b) There are about 50 vacancies of Under Secretaries as on 1.12.2005 and action to fill up the same has already been taken. However, it is not possible to indicate the exact number of vacancies likely to arise during the next six months because the same depends on several factors as enumerated in part (a) above.

(c) CSS has been recently restructured and a definite strength has been fixed in various grades, including that of Grade 1 (Under Secretary). As a result of restructuring, promotion prospects in various grades, including Section Officer's grade, have improved considerably. Information relating to the promotional prospects in the Secretariat Services of various State Governments is not maintained centrally.

Change in Civil Services Examinations

†2505. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for making changes in the syllabus of Indian Administrative Service is under consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) The Union Public Service Commission conduct the Civil Services Examination for recruitment to various Group 'A' and Group 'B' Services including the Indian Administrative Service. This examination is held in two stages - (i) Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination and (ii) Civil Services (Main) Examination which comprises two parts — (a) written examination and (b) interview. At present there are 55 optional subjects in the scheme of the Civil Services (Main) Examination. Candidates have the option to choose any two optional subjects, barring certain combination of subjects, from these 55 subjects. The syllabi of various subjects are reviewed and revised by the Commission periodically in consultation with academic experts to weed out obsolete material and to include the developments in different subjects and branches of knowledge. This is an ongoing process.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.